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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 31 December 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 26 December 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union, regarding the situation in Nigeria (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled "Human rights questions".

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the situation in Nigeria issued on 26 December 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union is following very closely, and with anxiety, developments in the situation in Nigeria after the arrest on 21 December of General Diya and 11 other persons accused of attempting to carry out a coup d'état.

The European Union appeals urgently to the Nigerian authorities to treat the 12 persons arrested in accordance with legal principles corresponding to international standards. The prisoners should be entitled to legal proceedings which give them every guarantee that they can defend themselves and establish the truth in respect of the accusations made against them. The European Union cannot accept a repetition of the events of 1995.